



Initiative 1

- Foster regional partnerships
- Develop integrated regional water management plans
- Diversify regional water portfolios

Over the past 50 years, California has met much of its increasing water demands with inter-regional projects. Although these State, federal, and local projects now serve as the backbone of California water management, by themselves they cannot provide for our growing population, changing agricultural production patterns, and environmental needs. However, regional partnerships can efficiently solve water management problems, and they can consider multiple resource issues. Regions

have opportunities not available to individual water suppliers. With State government leadership, assistance and oversight, regional water planning and management will help meet water needs through 2030. Integrated regional water management relies on a diversified portfolio of water strategies. The resulting regional plans can provide efficient solutions, consider other resource issues, and enjoy broad public support.

California Water Plan Update 2005 identifies near-term actions that will stimulate progress toward achieving integrated regional water management. It also specifies comprehensive actions that will foster success over the long term. Some of these key actions include the following:

Promote integrated regional water management to ensure sustainable water resource use, better water quality, environmental stewardship, efficient urban development, protection of agriculture, and a strong economy.

Promote and Practice Integrated Regional Water Management

Foster Regional Partnerships

Water suppliers that form partnerships with other entities in their region can accomplish projects and provide benefits that no single agency can do alone. For example, partnerships may allow agencies to improve their water supply reliability by establishing emergency connections with neighboring water suppliers; increase operational flexibility by participating in regional groundwater management and conjunctive use; protect water quality by participating in regional watershed management; reduce costs by cooperating with other agencies on water conservation and outreach programs; facilitate new projects by contributing to local habitat conservation plans; and help achieve many other regional resource management objectives.

Partnerships can lead to the preparation of integrated regional water management plans and regional eligibility for certain grant funds. Early coordination with land planning agencies may help water suppliers and land planners anticipate and plan for future growth, and ensure that additional regional growth will not exceed water suppliers' capabilities. Ultimately, regional partnerships will enable optimum management of water and other resources within a region.

Develop and Implement Integrated Regional Water Management Plans

California is placing more emphasis on integrated regional water management. With this inclusive systems approach, local agencies and governments can be more flexible and act more efficiently. This approach makes better use of existing local resources. It integrates multiple aspects of managing water and related resources such as water quality, local and imported water supplies, watershed protection, wastewater treatment and recycling, and protection of local ecosystems.



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